

Respirable Dust Control for Miners and Mine Operators



Health Hazard Information Card HH-41

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Miners' Expectations:

- Work in an environment that meets the regulatory requirements of 2.0 mg/m³ or less.
- Expect dust controls specified in the approved ventilation plan to be maintained and used each shift.
- Receive training on health hazards, including dust controls and the respirable dust sampling program.
- Receive access to NIOSH-approved respirators when dust levels in the mine exceed the applicable standard.
- Review the results of the operator's respirable dust samples that are required to be posted on the mine bulletin board.
- Request an MSHA inspection if the miner believes:
 - ✓ Respirable dust concentrations are excessive,
 - ✓ Respirable dust controls are not being maintained,
 - ✓ Representative respirable dust samples are not being collected by the mine operator.



Requirements for Mine Operators:

- Maintain respirable dust concentrations at or below the applicable standard as required by MSHA regulations.
- Maintain all controls as specified in the approved ventilation plan at all times.
- Ensure dust controls are working properly each shift by conducting the required on-shift examination.
- Make NIOSH-approved respirators available to miners exposed to excessive levels of respirable coal mine dust.
- Conduct a respirable dust monitoring program by:
 - ✓ Collecting valid samples
 - ✓ Collecting samples that represent normal work activities
 - ✓ Collecting samples every other month
 - ✓ Not altering or opening samples
 - ✓ Posting results on the mine bulletin board for at least 31 days
- Train miners at least annually on:
 - ✓ The purpose of respirable dust sampling
 - ✓ The mandatory health standards that apply to this mining operation
 - ✓ The health provisions of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act
 - ✓ The dust control portion of the approved ventilation plan
- Report to MSHA within 3 working days, any changes in an operational status that affects dust sampling.

If you have questions about coal mine health matters, please contact your local MSHA office or see the MSHA website at www.msha.gov.